

REMARKS

Appreciation is expressed to the examiner for pointing out the typographical error in claim 6. The amendment suggested by the examiner in paragraph 5 regarding claim 6 has been adopted. However, this amendment is completely redundant since it has no effect on the scope of the claim. The broadest reasonable construction of claim 6 is exactly the same both with and without the redundant words suggested by the examiner.

With respect to claims 55 and 62, the examiner acknowledges that a domain structure of the polypeptide is shown in figure 2A, including a signal peptide region at the beginning of the sequence and transmembrane and cytoplasmic tail regions at the end of the sequence. See, in addition, page 33, lines 28-31. Since a signal peptide is followed by the mature protein and since transmembrane and cytoplasmic tail regions are preceded by the external domain, this disclosure would inevitably and necessarily convey to a skilled worker that applicants were in possession of the recited lengths of the mature protein. Thus, this disclosure fully satisfies the written description requirements of 35 USC first paragraph, for claims 55 and 62. As for the modifier “about” this is fully supported, e.g., by the fact that the description of the protein at the bottom of page 33 is given in terms of numerical amino acids and also generically termed domain regions.

Lastly, the examiner has now established of record that the Freeman sequence is the same as that being claimed in this application. Since Freeman claims the same sequence, it appears that an interference is now in order. It is assumed that the examiner will now forward this application to an APJ for review. However, if the examiner feels that further input from the applicant is desired, applicant is happy to oblige.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,

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